

September 2, 2025

Governor Gretchen Whitmer
PO Box 30013
Lansing, MI 48909

RE: Restore Michigan Arts and Culture Council Funding in the State Budget

Dear Governor Whitmer,

I am the Chair for the City of Mackinac Island Historic District Commission. I am writing with deep concern about the Michigan House's recently passed budget proposal, which eliminates funding for the Michigan Arts and Culture Council (MACC). MACC provides more than \$11 million annually in grants that support arts and culture organizations in all 83 counties—organizations that educate our children, employ thousands of workers, preserve our history, and enrich the quality of life for every community. Eliminating MACC funding would be devastating: • Thousands of jobs would be lost. • Local economies that rely on arts and culture for tourism and small business activity would suffer. • Communities across Michigan would lose access to essential cultural programs and services. The MHPN relies on MACC grants to support their staff salaries, educational outreach programs, and hands-on preservation workshops for homeowners and building trades professionals. The members of the City of Mackinac Island Historic District Commission strongly urge you to stand against any proposal to eliminate MACC funding and support full and continued investment in Michigan's creative economy and cultural life. Our communities depend on the arts—not only for education and inspiration, but also for economic stability and civic vitality. Please ensure that MACC remains fully funded in the final state budget. Thank you for your service and for supporting Michigan's vibrant creative sector.

Sincerely,

Lee Finkel
Chair, Mackinac Island Historic District Commission